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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, our strength and our salvation, touch us with the flame of Your love. Let it burn out self-interest, that our heartfelt dedication to public service of Your people may be transformed into deeper commitment.

Free this Congress to be Your sterile instrument to heal this Nation and restore its vitality.

May our accomplishments give You alone, Lord, all the glory, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRESS IS BEGINNING TO WORK TOGETHER

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the American people have demanded that Congress begin working together to solve this Nation's problems, and we have done just that.

On Monday, our friends across the Capitol, in the other body as we say, passed their version of the jobs bill by a vote of 70-28. We, in this House, have already passed a different version, and yesterday we passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 406-19 a long overdue elimination of the anti-trust exemption that health insurers have enjoyed for decades. We hope our friends in the other body will join us in a similarly bipartisan vote to send that bill to the President.

And today a bipartisan group of congressional leaders meets at the White House to discuss ways to bring down the cost of health care for every family and every business in America. While we're not yet finished, and there's clearly much work yet to be done, Congress this week has made great strides in moving forward on the issues that are of most concern to the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to recognize many important contributions African Americans have made to our Nation. We especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to shape our community and our great Nation. The Omaha area is blessed with thousands of successful and talented African Americans, and today I would like to recognize four individuals: Frank Hayes, Phyllis Hicks, Dr. Mary Clinkscale and Dr. Herb Rhodes.

Frank Hayes is a CPA who owns his own business. He is also a founding member and the first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth.

Since 1967 Phyllis Hicks has run the Salem Stepping Drill Team and continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this group. Through her outreach, she has helped many youth overcome obstacles.

Mary Clinkscale, Dr. Mary Clinkscale, or Dr. C, as she's commonly referred to, is the administrator of the Great Beth-el Temple where she has planned, produced and directed more than 250 theatrical productions and presentations, including a performance to prelude The Tuskegee Airmen.

Dr. Herb Rhodes is a lifetime member of the Omaha business community. He was featured in 1975 in Ebony magazine which highlighted successful African Americans who were leading the way in business.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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